

A card-like wireless communication device and an antenna structure

5 The present invention relates to an expansion card as set forth in the preamble of claim 1. The invention relates also to a method in the manufacture of an expansion card as set forth in the preamble of claim 10. Moreover, the invention relates to an antenna structure which is arranged to be fitted in a card-like wireless communication device, as set forth in the preamble of claim 11. Furthermore, the invention relates to an arrangement for a wireless communication device for setting an antenna structure and guiding it in different positions, as set forth in the preamble of claim 15.

15 In wireless communication devices, such as mobile phones, antennas used for the transmission and reception of radio-frequency signals include *e.g.* a monopole antenna and a helix antenna, in a way known *per se*. The radio-frequency signals are transmitted between the radio part and the antenna of the wireless communication device by means of conventional wiring and connectors. The dimensioning of antennas depends *e.g.* on the frequency range of the radio-frequency signal to be used at the time. In view of the operation of the antenna, it is advantageous that it is placed in a free space outside a mobile station or a corresponding device. Thus, the antenna is located farther from components causing radio interference, such as integrated circuits (IC) and radio frequency (RF) circuits, and the structures of the device do not interfere with the radiation pattern of the antenna, wherein the reception of radio-frequency signals is more reliable, particularly in a weak signal field.

30 According to prior art, various electronic devices, such as portable personal computers (PC) are often equipped with an expansion card interface, to which a standardized expansion card can be connected. These expansion cards are intended to form a functional unit with the PC. The expansion cards may also contain radio parts of a wireless communication device with its antenna, wherein the PC can, by means of this card-like wireless communication device, communicate with other devices or with a communication network, *e.g.* the GSM network (Global System for Mobile Communication).

One known expansion card is the PC card complying with the PCMCIA standard (Personal Computer Memory Card International Association). The PCMCIA standard also defines the physical size of the PC card. The PC cards are fitted to be inserted fully inside the PC, but so-called extended PC cards can be longer than ordinary PC cards. These extended PC cards are placed partly outside the PC, wherein the thickness and design of the PC cards may vary in this part which typically also contains the antenna of the card-like wireless communication device.

One known card-like wireless communication device which comprises a transceiver with its antenna is the Nokia Cellular Card Phone, *i.e.* a card phone that can be connected to expansion card interfaces of types II and III of the PC card complying with the PCMCIA standard. One embodiment of the card phone of prior art is shown in Fig. 1, and the operation of the card phone is described in more detail *e.g.* in patent publication US 5,809,115. The card phone in question can comply with *e.g.* the GSM standard, wherein the PC device to which the card phone is connected can be in a wireless data transmission connection with base stations of a PLMN network (Public Land Mobile Network) by means of radio waves. In the card phone, the antenna part containing the antenna is placed in the part of the card phone located outside the PC device, and the antenna part is integrated with the card-like part of the card phone which is placed inside the expansion card connection. Other known card-like wireless communication devices are presented in patent publication US 5,628,055, wherein a separate turnable antenna can be connected to the end of the card, and in US 5,361,061, wherein a foldable antenna is pivoted at the end of the extended card on its upper surface. One card-like wireless communication device is also disclosed in the patent publication WO 97/49194, in which a card can be equipped with a separate fixed antenna part or, by means of a wire, a separate elongated antenna.

Other known expansion cards include *e.g.* a so-called CompactFlash (CF) card complying with the CFA standard (Compact Flash Association). For example for these CF cards, there are also adapters of the size of the PCMCIA card, in which the CF card is placed for the

PCMCIA interface. Also known are expansion cards for a wireless local area network (WLAN). Other expansion cards include also a so-called Miniature Card, whose size is only 38 mm × 33 mm × 3.5 mm, as well as a so-called SmartMedia card, whose size is only 45 mm × 37 mm × 0.76 mm, and an MMC card (so-called MultiMediaCard), whose size is only 32 mm × 24 mm × 1.4 mm.

One drawback in known card-like communication devices is the fact that during the use, particularly the antenna structure constitutes a part that protrudes from both the electronic device and the card. Moreover, the connections often comprise a protective cover to protect the expansion card, which must be kept open as the antenna structure extends outside the electronic device. The protruding parts of the antenna structure or of the card and protective covers may stick in something particularly during the transportation and use of the device, as well as they may damage the card or the antenna part. For this reason, the card must be detached after the use and be stored separately from the PC device for example during transportation; accordingly, a requirement for putting the device into working order is that the card-like wireless communication device is inserted back in its place.

It is an aim of the present invention to eliminate the above-mentioned drawback and to present a considerable improvement to the prior art by means of a card-like wireless communication device according to the invention. The expansion card of the invention is characterized in what will be presented in the characterizing part of claim 1. The method in the manufacture of an expansion card according to the invention is characterized in what will be presented in the characterizing part of claim 10. An antenna structure according to the invention is characterized in what will be presented in the characterizing part of claim 11. An arrangement according to the invention is characterized in what will be presented in the characterizing part of claim 15.

A card-like wireless communication device according to the invention, such as a card phone, has the considerable advantage that it can be made e.g. in the size of a PCMCIA card, wherein it fits fully inside e.g. the expansion card connection of a PC device. The card-like wireless communication device preferably constitutes an integrated unit with

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direction of the card. A particular advantage is also achieved in that the end of the card, which is visible in the connection, has as wide an area as possible for connectors, the antenna part only taking space for its cross-section.

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The card-like wireless communication device according to the invention does not need to be removed from the PC device for the time of transportation. Thus, the start-up of the PC device, the setting up of the radio connection, and the start of wireless communication become faster. At the same time also the acts of inserting and removing the card in and from the expansion card connection are decreased, wherein the wear of the connection is reduced, and malfunctions are decreased.

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It is a particular advantage of the invention that the antenna is placed in a free area outside the device when it protrudes in its functional position. Thus, the antenna is located farther from the components causing radio interference, such as the processor of a computer. The influence of electromagnetic interference caused by the components decreases as the distance increases. It is possible that a sufficiently strong antenna structure in its functional position can be used for pulling out the card from the expansion card connection, wherein the device or the card do not need to be equipped with means or mechanisms facilitating the pulling out.

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In the following, the invention will be described in more detail with reference to the appended drawings, in which

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Fig. 1 is a perspective view showing a card-like wireless communication device according to prior art,

Fig. 2

is an explosion view showing a preferred embodiment of a card-like wireless communication device according to the invention,

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Fig. 3

is a perspective view showing a preferred embodiment of the card-like wireless communication device of Fig. 2 partly

Fig. 4 is a perspective view showing a preferred embodiment of the card-like wireless communication device of Fig. 2 partly cut open and the antenna part shown in an intermediate position,

Fig. 5 is a perspective view showing a preferred embodiment of the card-like wireless communication device of Fig. 2 partly cut open and the antenna part shown in its functional position,

Fig. 6 is an explosion view showing a preferred embodiment of the card-like wireless communication device of Fig. 2, and

Fig. 7 is a basic view showing the principle of operation of the antenna part according to Fig. 6 seen from above.

With reference to Figs. 2 and 6, a card-like wireless communication device CP, which in the following will also be called a card CP, comprises a card-like frame part 16—20 and an antenna structure 1—10 fitted inside the same at least in its transportation position, a position mechanism 11—13 for controlling the position of the antenna structure 1—10 and fitting it movably in connection with the frame part 16—20, and coupling means 14—15 for coupling the antenna structure 1—10, particularly its antenna part 1 electrically to the circuit board 17 of the frame part 16—20 for the transmission of signals, such as radio signals. The rod-like antenna structure 1—10 comprises a first end S1, in connection with which the antenna part 1 is placed for receiving and transmitting signals in a wireless manner, and a second end S2 placed movably inside the card CP and equipped with coupling means 4 and locking means 5, 10, 12, 13 which shall be described further below. As shown in Fig. 2, the card CP comprises a first part, *i.e.* the frame part 16—20, and a second part, *i.e.* the antenna part 1—10, which parts are arranged to move in relation to each other in the longitudinal direction of the card CP (axis X) *e.g.* by means of the position mechanism 11—13. Thus, the moving can take place in this longitudinal direction X

in a limited manner in both directions back and forth. The antenna structure can be moved into a first position A1 shown in Fig. 3, which in this description will be called the transportation position A1, a third position A3 shown in Fig. 4, which in this description will be called the intermediate position A3, and further to a second position A2 shown in Fig. 5, which in this description will be called the functional position A2. The radio parts of the card CP or the wireless communication device are located in the presented preferred embodiment of the invention in the frame part 16—20.

Further with reference to Figs. 2 to 5, the card CP with the antenna structure 1—10 is designed as a PC card complying with the PCMCIA standard. Thus, the card CP has an axis X with a longitudinal length of 85.6 mm and a transverse length of 54 mm according to the PCMCIA standard. However, an extended PC card can be 40 mm longer than this. PC cards are divided into three types, wherein the thickness of the card CP in its middle part can be 3.3 mm (type I), 5.0 mm (type II) or 10.5 mm (type III). PC cards are designed to be inserted fully inside the expansion card connection by a movement in the direction of the longitudinal axis X of the PC card (arrow X2). The PC card is typically equipped with a 68-pin connector complying with the PCMCIA standard, by means of which the PC card is coupled to an electronic device, such as a PC. At the location of this connector and at the edge of the PC card the thickness of the PC card is 3.3 mm.

With reference to Fig. 2, the card CP normally comprises connector means 20 and frame means 18 made of plastic, wherein the circuit board 17 of the card CP and the radio parts placed on the circuit board, such as a transceiver (not shown in the figures) are located inside the card CP. The cover structures 16 and 19 are usually planar and substantially equiform thin sheet structures made of e.g. metal. As shown in Fig. 2, the card CP comprises a separate cover structure 16, but the cover structure 19 and the frame structure 18 constitute an integrated unit made e.g. by casting. It is obvious that the frame structure 18 with its reinforcements can also be made separately and e.g. fixed to the cover structure 19.

Further with reference to Fig. 2, when the antenna structure 1—10 is fitted in the card CP and particularly in the desired positions of the antenna structure, such as in the positions A1 and A2, one must also take care of the coupling of the antenna signal and, if necessary, also of the coupling of the ground potential to the antenna part 1. The elongated and rod-like antenna structure is also placed in alignment with the axis X and the direction of pushing (arrow X1), wherein the antenna structure is advantageously shorter than the card CP in order to fit inside the card CP. By using the connector means 20, the card CP is, for the transmission of signals, coupled to the expansion card connection of the PC device, which is equipped with pins which protrude in openings formed in the connector means 20 and having contacts whereby the pins are electrically coupled to the wirings and components of the circuit board 17. With respect to the connector means 20, the antenna structure is located on the next side of the card CP and arranged to extend from the opposite end outside the card CP, wherein when the card CP is fully inside the expansion card connection, the antenna structure can be moved by a pushing movement (arrow X1) out of the card CP and simultaneously out of the connection and farther from the electronic device. The antenna structure moves in the direction of the planes of the cover structures and protrudes from the card CP from

between the cover structures and from a circumferential outer surface edging the card CP.

5 The card CP comprises a position mechanism 11—13 operating in a spring-like manner for moving the antenna structure by pushing into the positions A1, A2 and A3 mentioned above. The position mechanism 11—13 is arranged to release the antenna structure from the transportation position A1 to the intermediate position A3 and further to move and set it to the functional position A2, as well as to move the
10 antenna structure from the functional position A2 to the intermediate position A3 and further back to the transportation position A1, to be locked. The pushing e.g. with a finger is performed in the direction compressing the pressure spring 11 of said mechanism (arrow X1). The transportation position A1 is substantially located between the
15 functional position A2 and the intermediate position A3.

Figure 6 shows a preferred embodiment of the antenna structure 1—10 comprising a rod-like, rigid antenna housing 2 which is made of e.g. plastic and is open at its one end, inside which the elongated, strip-like
20 antenna part 1 is located to be shielded. The planar antenna part 1 can itself constitute the required antenna, or the surface of the strip-like antenna part 1 can be provided with a separate antenna element e.g. by means of a microstrip. The antenna part 1 is attached to a stake 3 which at its end on the side of the antenna part 1 is partly fitted inside
25 the antenna housing 2, in an opening 2a, and at its opposite end is fitted inside a sleeve 6, in an opening 6a. The sleeve 6 constitutes an elongated housing structure which is preferably open at its one end. The antenna housing 2 and the sleeve 6 are fitted to adjoin each other, wherein their openings 2a and 6a face each other and the stake 3 fitted
30 in said openings is fully placed inside them. The stake 3 can be fixed to the antenna housing 2 in various ways. The stake 3 is provided with a transverse opening 3a extending through the stake 3 and accommodating a transverse contact pin 4. The purpose of the contact pin 4 is to couple the antenna part 1 electrically to the circuit board 17
35 of Fig. 2. The sleeve 6 is provided with an opening 6b which extends in the transverse direction through its wall to the hollow inner part and which is arranged to receive the contact pin 4. Around the opening 6b, the sleeve 6 is provided with a collar-like part 6c supporting the contact

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nest 18a in the direction of the antenna structure 1—10 (axis Y), to which the spring stopper 7 extends and in which the spring stopper 7 is movable. When the antenna structure is inserted in the card CP, also the pressure spring 11 is compressed and tends to push the antenna structure out of the card CP, wherein it generates a counter force for the insertion. The nest 18a is also equipped with an end stopper 18b which is hit by the spring stopper 7 and which prevents that the antenna structure is completely detached from the card CP. The frame structure 18 is also provided with an antenna nest 18c for the antenna structure 1—10, in which the antenna structure is allowed to move in the direction of the axis Y. The nest 18c is opened to the end of the card CP, from which the antenna structure is pushed out and thereby extends outside the card CP.

The function of the pressure spring 11 is to produce a force which is opposite to the direction of pressing (arrow X1), to move the antenna structure 1—10. Consequently, to move the antenna structure to different positions, preferably only a finger movement is required in the direction of pressing (arrow X1) and a pressing force for compressing the pressure spring 11, after which, when the finger is released, the antenna structure automatically springs out in the opposite direction.

As shown in Fig. 6, the outermost end of the position lever 10 is provided with a pin 10b for the purpose of moving along a path P shown in Fig. 7, under the guidance of lever guides 12 and 13 shown in Fig. 2 and formed in the frame structure 18 or alternatively fixed in the cover structure 19. Along the path P, the antenna structure is set in the different positions A1, A2 and A3. In the presented embodiment, the pin 10b, when straightened, is set parallel to the axis Y. It should be noted that the terms describing the different positions A1, A2, A3 (intermediate position, functional position, transportation position) are only given for illustrating the function and various positions of the antenna structure 1—10 and to separate the different positions from each other, and they do not describe the precise position of the antenna structure 1. However, for example the transportation position A1 is preferably the position in which the antenna structure is locked and placed fully inside the card CP. The location of the functional position A1 can vary even to a great extent, depending on e.g. the location of the end stopper 18b, but

in this position the antenna structure, particularly the antenna part 1 is located as far as possible from the frame parts 16—20 of the card CP.

5 The antenna part 1 is electrically coupled to the circuit board 17 of the card CP by means of the contact pin 4. The antenna part 1 is coupled to the contact pin 4 for example by means of wires or spring-like contact means (not shown in the figure), and the contact pin 4 can be made of *e.g.* metal, or it can be coated with an electroconductive material. The ground potential possibly required by the antenna part 1 can be coupled in a variety of ways, *e.g.* through the stake 3 and the sleeve 7 and/or the antenna housing 2, wherein they must be equipped with electroconductive surfaces or contacts. In the functional position A2 of the antenna structure, the contact pin 4 is arranged in contact with the circuit board 17 with a contact spring 14 fitted according to Fig. 2, by means of which the antenna part 1 is electrically coupled to the wirings and components of the circuit board 17. When inserted, the connection between the contact pin 4 and the contact spring 14 is cut off. If necessary, the circuit board 17 can also be equipped with another contact spring 15, as shown in Fig. 2, in the location in which the contact pin 4 is set in the transportation position A1 of the antenna structure, wherein the antenna part 1 and the circuit board 17 have an electric contact to each other. It is obvious that the stake 3 can be equipped with several contact pins which are each electrically coupled to the circuit board by means of a contact spring. The contact springs and the way of their attachment can be different from that presented, and they can be for example elongated, slide-like means along which the contact pin 4 slides in the contact. It is also possible that the operation of the radio parts of the card CP is coupled on and off depending on the position of the antenna structure 1, or on the contact spring to which the antenna part 1 is coupled. For example, the operation is turned off in the first position A1 and turned on in the second position A2.

35 It is possible that the antenna structure, particularly the antenna part 1 and the antenna housing 2 are also arranged to be telescopically operated in the longitudinal direction of the card CP (arrow X), wherein *e.g.* slide elements are utilized in the electric coupling. It is also feasible that the antenna housing 2 is equipped with a joint by means of which the antenna housing 2 can be turned in the functional position of the

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is inserted in the card CP, the pin 10b is set in a functional connection with the lever guides 12 and 13 which guide the position lever 10 by deflecting it from the rest position maintained by the spring 5 into different positions. By means of said positions, also the antenna structure is set in the positions A1, A2 and A3 mentioned above. When the antenna structure is inserted from the functional position A2 of Figs. 5 and 7, the lever guide 12 guides the pin 10b to the side (groove Pa), until the pin 10b passes the edge of the guide and tends to be straightened, *i.e.* to be returned to its rest position, by means of the spring force. However, the straightening is prevented by the lever guide 13 which is hit by the pin 10b which remains in a slanted position (location Pb). Thus, the antenna structure is set in its intermediate position A3, shown in Fig. 4, which is not permanent but the antenna structure is moved from its intermediate position A3 to the transportation position A1. The antenna structure does not remain locked in its intermediate position A3 which is only used as an intermediate phase required for moving the position mechanism into different positions. The pin 10b is arranged to move past the lever guide 13 in the perpendicular direction only between the lever guides 12 and 13, for example by preventing insertion of the antenna structure too far in the card CP, or by the design of the lever guide 13.

When the antenna structure is released, *e.g.* by stopping the insertion with a finger and releasing the first end S1, the pressure spring 11 pushes the antenna structure out from the card CP, wherein also the pin 10a is moved to the concave part of the lever guide 12 (groove Pc), at the bottom of which the pin 10b is set, pushed by the spring 11, behind the lever guide 12 when seen from the antenna structure. Thus, the antenna structure is set in its transportation position A3 as shown in Fig. 3. When the antenna structure is inserted again, *e.g.* by pushing the first end S1 with a finger, the pin 10b can continue to follow the curvilinear part of the lever guide 12 and at the same time the position lever 10 tends to be straightened by the spring force of the spring 5, until the pin 10b passes the edge of the lever guide 12 (location Pd), moving past the lever guide 12 in the perpendicular direction, and the position lever 10 can be straightened. Thus, the pressure spring 11 is allowed to push the antenna structure out from the card CP, without being prevented by the position lever 10, particularly the pin 10b.

During the pushing out, the edge of the lever guide 12 guides (groove Pe) the pin 10b to the side, deflecting it past the tip of the lever guide 12 pointing at the antenna structure, so that the straightened and restored position lever 10 would hit the other side (groove Pa) of the lever guide 12 during the insertion.

10 According to a second embodiment of the invention, the antenna structure 1—10 and the position mechanism 11—13 are arranged in such a way that the pressure spring 5, the nest 8 and the planar surface 9 are fitted to a location in which the parts 12 and 13 are found in Fig. 2. In a corresponding manner, the lever guides 12 and 13 are thus fitted in the sleeve 6 and the position lever 10 is fitted in the nest 8. Thus, the position of said parts is also turned 180 degrees around the direction perpendicular to the direction Y. Furthermore, it is obvious that

15 in comparison with the second embodiment and the first embodiment of Fig. 2, the position of said parts can also be turned around the direction Y, for example 90 or 180 degrees, wherein the lever guides 12, 13 can also be attached to the cover structure 16. The lever guides 12, 13 can also be arranged to be fixed to the circuit board 17. In Fig. 2, the antenna structure is placed to the right-hand side of the card CP, but its position can also be on the left-hand side of the card, where also another corresponding antenna structure can be placed. It is obvious that the antenna structure can also be placed in the middle part of the card CP; however, this will make the internal structure of the card CP

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It is obvious that the invention is not limited solely to some preferred embodiments of the invention as presented above, but it may vary within the scope of the claims. For example, it is obvious that in the

30 invention, the antenna part can also be brought fully inside or only closer to the wireless communication device, and that in the invention the antenna part can be brought out of or only farther from the wireless communication device.